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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,389	03/06/2002	Nobuhide Kato	789 078	8451
25191	7590	09/03/2004		
BURR & BROWN				EXAMINER
PO BOX 7068				HOANG, TU BA
SYRACUSE, NY 13261-7068				ART UNIT
				PAPER NUMBER
				3742

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/092,389	KATO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tu Ba Hoang	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 March 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/06/02&12/17/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

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Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings were received on March 06, 2002. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "rapidly" and "slowly" in claim 1 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "rapidly" and/or "slowly" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is unclear how much would be considered "rapidly increasing" or "slowly increasing" temperature.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzumura et al (US 5,719,778) or (EP 0695 983 cited by the Applicant). Suzumura et al ('778 or '983) shows a method of heating a gas sensor (20) including a ceramic substrate (24) and a heater (26) embedded in the substrate (shown in Figure 3A) by controlling the temperature of the heater (see abstract), wherein the temperature of the heater is increased rapidly (column 8, line 22) when the temperature of the substrate (or sensor as a whole) is low (i.e., initial heating temperature at full 100% power as set forth at column 8, lines 19-21 or at 100°C at set forth at column 10, line 29, which is within the claimed range of equal to or less than 500 degree centigrade) and is increased slowly when the temperature of the substrate or the sensor is high (i.e., up to 1200°C as set forth at column 24, line 50, which is within the claimed range of equal to or greater than 600 degree centigrade) to prevent electrical wire breakage (column 11, line 6), the voltage applied to the heater changes depending on time passed for increasing temperature of the heater according to an exponential curve (shown in Figure 11C), the resistance of the heater is measured by measurement unit (50) connected to at least one measuring lead (82) and the rate of increasing resistance of the heater per unit time

is controlled by control unit (80) as set forth at column 6, lines 61-66, column 8, lines 19-48, column 9, line 29 to column 10, line 6, and column 24, lines 2-50.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Murray (US 4,404,462), Foote (US 3,946,198), Murase et al (US 4,883,947), Nagai et al (US 5,111,792), and Nakano et al (US 4,655,182).

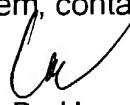
Claims 3 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not show or fairly suggest the temperature of the heater is increased at the recited speed of equal to or less than 40°C/sec. when the temperature of the substrate or sensor is equal to or less than 500°C or at the recited speed range of greater than 20°C/sec., equal to or less than 100°C/sec. when the temperature of the substrate is equal to or less than 500°C.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu Ba Hoang whose telephone number is (703) 308-3303. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tu Ba Hoang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

August 31, 2004